

the winged chariot

VOLUME IV - Issue 3

THE WINGED CHARIOT

% MoonStar Enterprises

P. O. Box 8458

San Diego, CA 92102

A newsletter devoted to the Tarot discipline. Annual subscriptions: \$10.00 U.S.A., \$12.50 Canada/Mexico and \$15.00 elsewhere. Eight issues published erratically. Sample copies \$2.00.

Back issues of certain issues from Volumes II and III are available: \$2.00 each.

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<u>APPEARING IN THIS ISSUE:</u>	
<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
THE CELTIC/DRUID TAROT (Part VII)	2
WHAT'S NEW	8
BOOK REVIEW - <u>The Tarot: A Guide to Reading Your Own Cards</u> - Shavick	10
DECK REVIEW - The Revised Amazon Tarot	11
PENTAGRAM PATTERN - Patrick Barney	12
CHRIS DOLK'S PATTERN	13
CLASSIFIEDS	14

THE CELTIC/DRUID TAROT

(Part VII)

The Minor Arcana

To continue to Tarot sequence, we will now pass from Graves' Tree-Alphabet Calendar and the delineation of the Major Arcana and set up Celtic associations for the Minor Arcana. Keep in mind, though, that this is merely an exercise in extending the scope of the Tarot to another philosophical system and is not meant to imply that the Tarot originated from the Celtic esoteric tradition.

According to Graves, four mythical creatures governed the solar year: The ox/bull ruled the first 140 days (five months - Birch, Rowan, Ash, Alder, and Willow/Blackthorn); the lion ruled the next 112 days (four months - Whitethorn, Oak, Holly and Hazel/Wild Apple); the serpent governed the last 112 days (four months - Vine, Ivy, Reed and Elder); while the griffon/eagle ruled the extra day of the year (December 23), the four vowel stations (solstices and equinoxes) and the vowels. Since these figures so closely parallel the four Holy Living Creatures of Ezekiel's vision and the Apocalypse of St. John - as well as the four fixed signs of the zodiac - the suits of the Minor Arcana can be linked with them as follows: Ox/bull (Taurus) - Pentacles; Lion (Leo) - Cups; Serpent (Aquarius) - Wands; and Griffon/eagle (Scorpio) - Swords. However, as the monthly and seasonal divisions between the creatures are disparate, these correspondences are only assigned in a general sense.

Many authors (Yeats, Weston in From Ritual to Romance, Huson in The Devil's Picturebook, and Douglas in The Tarot) has commented on the similarity between the four suit markers of the Tarot and the four Treasures of the Tuatha de Danann and the four Grail Hallows of the Arthurian myth cycle. The Tuatha de Danann were legendary divine/royal ancestors of the Irish. Graves postulates that the Dananns were bronze age Pelasgians exiled from Greece in the middle of the second millenium B.C. Weston in particular theorizes that the four Treasures evolved into the four Grail Hallows and

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finally developed into the suits of the Minor Arcana. Therefore, the symbols representing the four Treasures (listed below) serve as suit markers of the Celtic/Druid Tarot. (Following the delineation of the four Treasures is a description of the four Grail Hallows; although they are not included in the Celtic/Druid Tarot system, they are mentioned enough so that some explanation is called for).

The Four Treasures of the Tuatha de Danann

Spear of Lugh: Lugh was called the many-skilled god and the spear represents his dexterity with the instrument. His attributes are similar to those of Hermes-Thoth. The spear evolved from the older prototype of the Club of Dagda, which brought death or healing, according to which end was wielded. The spear/club belongs to the suit of Wands.

Cauldron of Dagda: Dagda, one of the oldest Celtic gods, was called the Father of All and his cauldron could never be emptied. This Treasure is also identified with the cauldron of Cerridwen (named Amen), from which the boy Gwion imbibed. After many initiatory transformations, with Cerridwen in hot pursuit, he became a seed swallowed by the goddess-as-hen. Nine months later he was reborn as the bard Taliesin. Cauldrons are symbols of divine inspiration and fertility, hence their alignment with the suit of Cups.

Sword of Nuada: Nuada was the King of the Tuatha de Danann and his sword was so powerful that no enemy could escape from him once it had been unsheathed. It is likened to Zeus' thunderbolt, the sickle of Cronos (Saturn), the Green (or Holly) Knight's axe, and similar phallic symbols. The association with the suit of Swords is obvious.

Stone of Fal: The Irish Stone of Sovereignty or Coronation was the Stone of Fal, which cried out when trodden on by the lawful King of Ireland. Scotland's Stone of Scone (now housed in Westminster Abbey) is a viable reminder of the Celtic

belief that certain stones contained magical properties to determine divinely chosen sovereigns. The Arthurian myth cycle also reflects this belief in the legend of Arthur pulling the sword from the stone, thereby proving his claim to the throne of Britain. The Stone is aligned with the suit of Pentacles and in T: The New Tarot for the Aquarian Age, the traditional Pentacles are replaced by a suit of Stones.

The Four Grail Hallows

Sacred Lance of Longinus: Christian mythology claims that Longinus was the Roman soldier who pierced Christ's side at the site of the Crucifixion. According to Weston, the Lance is an adaption of the Spear of Lugh and predecessor of the suit of Wands.

Holy Grail: The sacred cup used by Christ and the disciples at the Last Supper. It was believed to provided whatever food was desired by the holder. The Grail is linked with the Cauldron of Dagda and the suit of Cups.

Sword of the Spirit: The sword wielded by King David; as in the case of the Sword of Nuada, the correspondence with the suit of Swords is obvious.

Platter: The dish from which Jesus and the disciples ate the Paschal Lamb at the Last Supper. Alternatively, this last Grail Hallow can be interpreted as the Siege Perilous - the only chair in which the true High Prince could seat himself (akin to the stone symbolism as an indicator or royal prerogative) Sir Galahad, the virgin knight, was the only seeker of the Grail allowed to sit in the Siege Perilous. Again, the dish (because of its shape) and the stone are identified with the suit of Pentacles.

Although Graves erred in stating that there are thirteen Minor Arcana cards in each suit that can be aligned with the thirteen weeks between each vowel station in the Tree-Alphabet Calendar, an alignment is possible if the

Knight of each suit is taken out of sequence and is assigned to the four solstice-equinox vowel stations. The rationale behind this is that in many Tarot systems, the Knight indicates a coming or going of an event/situation rather than an actual person; therefore, here they are assigned to the seasonal vowel station immediately preceding each suit, and serve as transitions from one season to another. Because the thirteenth final week in each season was marked by a human sacrifice, the King in each suit is aligned with it as a representative of the sacrificial god/king of myth and legend.

The following diagram assigns the Minor Arcana to the weeks and seasons of the Tree-Alphabet Calendar:

The Tarot Tree-Alphabet Calendar
(Minor Arcana)

PENTACLES

Idho (Yew): Knight/Pentacles (Winter Solstice)

Beth (Birch): December 24 - January 20

1/Pentacles: December 24 - December 30

2/Pentacles: December 31 - January 6

3/Pentacles: January 7 - January 13

4/Pentacles: January 14 - January 20

Luis (Rowan): January 21 - February 17

5/Pentacles: January 21 - January 27

6/Pentacles: January 28 - February 3

7/Pentacles: February 4 - February 10

8/Pentacles: February 11 - February 17

Nion (Ash): February 18 - March 17

9/Pentacles: February 18 - February 24

10/Pentacles: February 25 - March 3

Page/Pentacles: March 4 - March 10

Queen/Pentacles: March 11 - March 17

Fearn (Alder): March 18 - April 14

King/Pentacles: March 18 - March 24

WANDS

Onn (Furze): Knight/Wands (Spring Equinox)

Fearn (Alder): March 18 - April 14

1/Wands: March 25 - March 31

2/Wands: April 1 - April 7

3/Wands: April 8 - April 14

Saille (Willow): April 15 - May 12

Straiff (Blackthorn): April 15 - May 12

4/Wands: April 15 - April 21

5/Wands: April 22 - April 28

6/Wands: April 29 - May 5

7/Wands: May 6 - May 12

Uath (Whitethorn): May 13 - June 9

8/Wands: May 13 - May 19

9/Wands: May 20 - May 26

10/Wands: May 27 - June 2

Page/Wands: June 3 - June 9

Duir (Oak): June 10 - July 9

Queen/Wands: June 10 - June 16

King/Wands: June 17 - June 23

CUPS

Ur (Heather): Knight/Cups (Summer Solstice)

Duir (Oak): June 10 - July 7

1/Cups: June 24 - June 30

2/Cups: July 1 - July 7

Tinne (Holly): July 8 - August 4

3/Cups: July 8 - July 14

4/Cups: July 15 - July 21

5/Cups: July 22 - July 28

6/Cups: July 29 - August 4

Coll (Hazel): August 5 - September 1

Quert (Wild Apple): August 5 - September 1

7/Cups: August 5 - August 11

8/Cups: August 12 - August 18

Coll/Quert (Cont'd)

9/Cups: August 19 - August 25

10/Cups: August 26 - September 1

Muin (Vine): September 2 - September 29

Page/Cups: September 2 - September 8

Queen/Cups: September 9 - September 15

King/Cups: September 16 - September 22

SWORDS

Eadha (Poplar: Knight/Swords (Autumn Equinox)

Muin (Vine): September 2 - September 29

1/Swords: September 23 - September 29

Gort (Ivy): September 30 - October 27

2/Swords: September 30 - October 6

3/Swords: October 7 - October 13

4/Swords: October 14 - October 20

5/Swords: October 21 - October 27

Ngetal (Rees): October 28 - November 24

6/Swords: October 28 - November 3

7/Swords: November 4 - November 10

8/Swords: November 11 - November 17

9/Swords: November 18 - November 24

Ruis (Elder): November 25 - December 22

10/Swords: November 25 - December 1

Page/Swords: December 2 - December 8

Queen/Swords: December 9 - December 15

King/Swords: December 16 - December 22

This alignment differs somewhat from the system provided in Nancy Passmore's annual Lunar Calendar but is more accurate in adhering to Graves' set-up of the Tree-Alphabet Calendar in The White Goddess.

This segment completes the exploration of the Celtic/Druid Tarot. Preliminary sketches of a Major Arcana were drawn several years ago. In upcoming issues several trumps will be reproduced with accompanying explanation.

WHAT'S NEW

A companion volume to Elksinger's *Perfected Tarot* is available for \$15.00 plus postage from Children of the Water, 2005 Delwood Ct., Austin, TX 78723. The \$15.00 deck is offered by Tarot Warehouse, 2860 California St., San Francisco, CA 94115. The Book eloquently delineates the unique spiritual concepts embodied in the deck.

Pandora Book Peddlers, 68 W. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631, is taking pre-orders (+\$14.00) for the *MotherPeace Tarot Playbook* by Vicki Noble and Jonathan Tenney. Spring publication is promised and it is expected that the text will enhance the *MotherPeace* deck and Vicki's classic text *MotherPeace*.

Poet/Taroist/gypsy/witch Lyndal Bronwyn has penned a self-produced volume of 22 poems, some of which are obviously evoked from her Tarot experience. Her creation can be obtained for \$4.00. Write her at 2124 Kittredge, #251, Berkeley, CA 94204. (Lyndal was interviewed previously in *The Winged Chariot*.)

Tatwas, a system of 22 pictorial combinations of the 5 basic Tatwa patterns, have been created by Emahnn and are available with a booklet for \$10.00. Obviously correlated with the Tarot Major Arcana, these black and white oversize cards (8" x 5") were created to be colored and meditated upon. The back of each card bears descriptive material and an accompanying instruction pamphlet provides coloring instructions. It can be ordered from EMAHNN, P. O. Box 27384, Omaha, Nebraska 68127.

Full House (29 Hampton Terrace, Livingston, NJ 07039) offers: 1) the Pistoia Tarot, an attractive deck based on medieval symbology, for \$15.00; 2) Teodore Dotti, reproduction of an 1845 deck, for \$30.00; Tarocco Della Feliciata (Happiness Tarot) by Amerigo Folchi for Solleone (\$25.00); Gatti Originali Felina (a cat Major Arcana) by Evelyn Nicod for \$20.00; and autographed copies of Kaplan's *Encyclopedia of Tarot* (Vol. II) for those who order by the end of May for \$35.00.

Naked Ladies, Naked Ladies, Naked Ladies by Lynda Barry (Creator of Ernie Pook's Comeeks) is an oversize coloring book/deck of 56 gouache and ink drawings of naked

women. Accompanying text traces the development of young girls' sexuality, "particularly the way they learn to view naked bodies & grow up to hate their own" (Belles Lettres review, March/April 1986). For \$7.95 it can be obtained from Real Comet Press, 932 18th Ave. E, Seattle, WA 98112.

Trumps of Doom is Roger Zelazny's latest addition to the Amber fantasy series, which chronicles a super-human family with the ability to teleport through Tarot trumps painted in their likenesses. This tale propels Corwin's son, Merlin, into the center of his family's web of intrigues. True to form, the hero zooms through frenetic activity to a cliff-hanger ending, thus assuring readers of a new Amber chronicle. The paperback costs \$3.95.

Infinity's Web by Sheila Webb explores a complicated theory of multiple universes created by the potential of discarded choices. One variation of the central character tries to break through to her other selves through computerized Tarot, astrology and physics techniques. She casts her selves into a maze as the Fool and the Magus enters at the end of the tale to help weave the broken tapestries of the universes. Interesting reading.

Subscribers Jim & Judy Flanigan brought Oswald Wirth's The Tarot of the Magicians to my attention. Weiser has translated the 1927 French text (entitled Le Tarot, des Imagiers du Moyen Age), which contained an exquisite portfolio of Wirth's Major Arcana. A comprehensive hermetic examination of the Tarot in the French esoteric tradition (the book is dedicated to Wirth's mentor, Stanislaus de Guaita). It can be purchased for \$12.50.

Q U O T A B L E

"The motif of the dance is an important one in the Tarot. Dancing is an art form in which body and soul interact in an individual and expressive way. A dancer reaches out to objects and other human beings, expressing relationship on the earthly level; and [SHe] reaches [hir] arms toward heaven, invoking the gods. There are several dancing figures in the Tarot." (Nichols)

BOOK REVIEW

Shavick, Nancy: The Tarot: A Guide to Reading Your Own Cards; 1984; Prima Materia Books; Hampton, NJ

This introductory Tarot text has enjoyed a spate of attention lately. Shavick has written a solid, informative primer, amply justifying her claim that it is "...a clear and practical guide which can be used with any Tarot deck; this is a comprehensive reference work designed to resolve any immediate problems during a reading." And its form is most appealing: It has been reproduced in the author's handwriting.

Numerological and element associations are emphasized in the discussion of the Minor Arcana. A method for selecting a Significator card is an unusual variation on an astrological theme: Kings and Queens of each suit are associated with the elemental triplicities of the zodiac (i.e., Wand King and Queen with fire signs; Cup King and Queen with water signs; Sword King and Queen with air signs; and Pentacle King and Queen with earth signs). The seeker's sun sign is used to assign either the King or Queen of the appropriate alignment as the Significator card.

A few basic spreads are delineated and the book concludes with explorations of each card, from Minor to Major Arcanas. With the analysis of each arcana, Shavick injects refreshing insights into traditional associations. Also pleasing is the amount of attention and space devoted to the Minor Arcana and it is here that the author offers the most original material. Because the definitions are generic, they can be applied to almost any deck.

For \$10.00, this 14-page book can be ordered from Prima Materia Books, P. O. Box 338, Hampton, NJ 08827. Midwesterners can find it at the Occult Bookstore, 2320 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60657 and Sanctum Regnum, 618 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.

This book is primarily recommended for beginners and collectors, although Tarotists at any level of exploration will find a journey through its pages rewarding.

DECK REVIEW

The New Amazon Tarot collective has issued a revised Tarot under Billie Potts' editorial wing. According to the collective, it "... manifests our belief that no one set of cards is absolute, final, authoritative" (accompanying leaflet).

A black-&-white illustration/photograph format is still utilized. Major changes seem to involve replacing work by Susun Weed and Prairie Jackson. Several illustrations from Ruth West's Thea's Tarot grace this revision as well as those from Judie Rakusin's Amazon Journal.

An exclusively women's deck, all images are female. Different designs for many arcana are provided for the user's choice. Additional options exist through the thoughtful provision of blank cards for the creation of individual, unique trumps. The lavender backings contain a white-etched labrys/sword with a leafing wand hilt topped by bowl/cup; above it shines a 5-rayed star/pentacle.

Unfortunately, there is not much written material. One-line definitions of each card appear on the leaflet, with acknowledgement of the particular card's creator.

As before, all 78 cards have been re-visioned. Most Major Arcana titles and concepts are transformed: 0/XXII-Innocents; I-With; II Sibyl; III-Matriarch, IV-Pharaoh (Hatshepsut); V-High Priestess; VII-Cowrie (replacing Strength); XII-Healing; XIII-Crone; XIV-Art; 2 XV trumps - Horned One and Birth; XVI-Volcano; XX-Muse & XXI-Dancer. The traditional Court Cards now appear as the Child (Page), Amazon (Knight), Companion (King) and Queen.

Perhaps the most positive replacement is Lizzie Brown's papercut of a tree destroyed by lightning for the 9 of Swords. The former "rape" card was traumatizing. I personally am disappointed with the revisioned XVI as the Volcano, with the concept of natural rather than self-wrought destruction.

The deck costs \$14.00 and can be ordered through Hecuba's Daughters, Inc., P. O. Box 9987, Bearsville, NY 12409.

A consistent feature of Volume I of The Winged Chariot was the exploration of reading patterns (spreads). I'd like to revive the habit occasionally and offer patterns not usually presented in books. The two presented here evolved from students in my Tarot classes during the mid-70's. I have lost contact with Patrick and Chris Dolk, whose spread appears on the following page, but I'm sure they wouldn't begrudge sharing their creativity with us. I have adapted the meanings of some of the positions to reflect contemporary Tarot thought.

PENTAGRAM PATTERN

Patrick Barney

The diagram for the Pentagram Pattern appears on page 14. The inner pentagram is reversed, not to indicate the pre-holistic occult idea of evil, but as a mirror to the outer upright pentagram. Because the pentagram is a symbol of the human body, its reversal indicates embroilment in the immediate situation calling for the reading. The inner pentagram, therefore, deals with the practical concern of the reading.

S is the Seeker (significator/querent); 1 deals the creation (birth) of a situation (past); 2 with its development to the present (growth); 3 with its completion/fulfillment/full implications (consummation); 4 with its far-reaching impact on the situation or the seeker (maturation) (future); and 5 its decline (death)

The 6th position deals with considerations of the physical/material world (pentacle/earth energy); the 7th with the intellectual/verbal plane (sword/air energy); the 8th with emotional/feeling influences (cup/water energy); and the 9th with spiritual/creative aspects (wand/fire energy). Whatever cards appear in these positions can be interpreted through the filter of the meanings of the positions. They can provide enhanced insight into the situation dealt with in the inner pentacle, or can expand one's horizons with glimpses of alternate paths. The final 10th card is the highest attainment possible within the scope of the reading.

As with all patterns, the interplay between the cards can be fascinating. Coordinate points on the inner and outer pentagrams can be especially meaningful in pairing.

CHRIS DOLK'S PATTERN

1

Chris's pattern follows a zig-zag or lightning-flash pattern from past to future:

2

1. Past Influences.
2. Present Influences.
3. Outside Influences.
- 4 & 5. Immediate Influences.
- 6 & 7. Future Possibilities.
8. Future Results.
9. Outcome.

3

4

6

Sometimes I change the positions' meanings to align with numerological symbology, as follows:

5

7

1. Point: beginnings, unity, the individual, awakening, birth, impulse.

8

2. Line: duality, polarity, conflict, opposition, separation.

9

3. Triangle: synthesis, creativity, inspiration, growth, transmutation.

4. Square: limitations, boundaries, foundations, organization, materiality.

5. Pentagram: variety, curiosity, uncertainty, the human condition, freedom.

6. Hexagon: harmony, beauty, love, relationship, rhythm, balance, healing.

7. Septenary: study, perfection, meditation, mysticism, soul development.

8. Lemniscate: prosperity, regeneration, success, health.

9. Triple Trinity: completion, initiation, evolution, all-embracing consciousness.

CLASSIFIEDS

TAROT NOTECARDS, including the Queen of Wands, Ace of Wands and Queen of Pentacles; \$1.00 for any combination of 3; order from B. R. Hoffman, Box 821, Flushing, NY 11354.

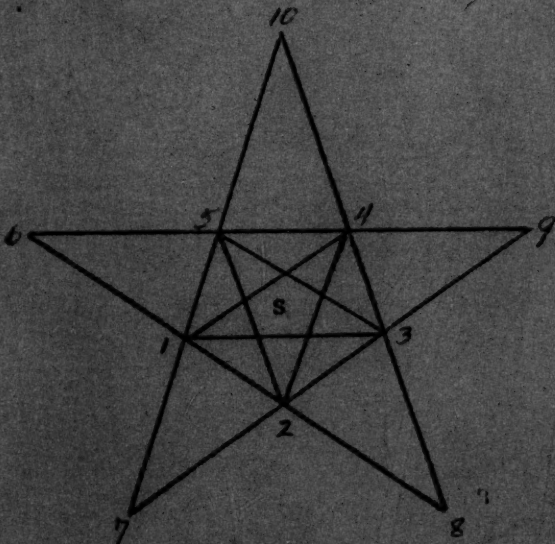
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PENTAGRAM PATTERN

CHRIS DOLK'S PATTERN

1

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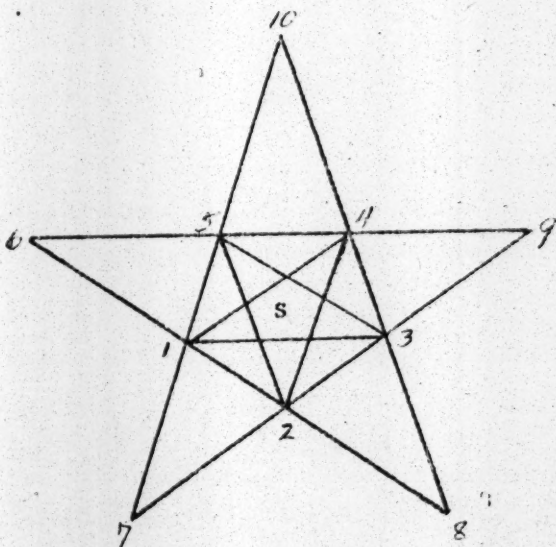
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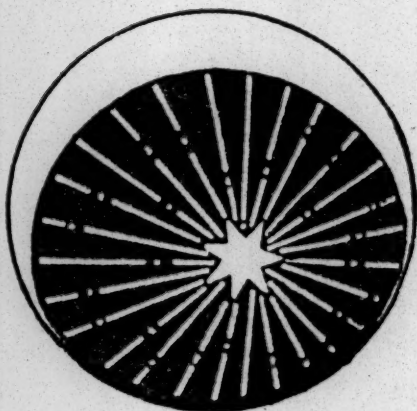
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PENTAGRAM PATTERN



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